



Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928)

LEADING BRITISH WOMEN'S RIGHTS ACTIVIST, WHO LED THE MOVEMENT TO WIN THE RIGHT FOR WOMEN TO VOTE



Emmeline Goulden was born on 14 July 1858 in Manchester. In 1879, she married Richard Pankhurst, a lawyer and supporter of the women's suffrage movement. He was also the author of the Married Women's Property Acts of 1870 and 1882, which allowed women to keep **earnings**¹ or property acquired before and after marriage. In 1889, Emmeline founded the Women's Franchise League, which tried to win the right for married women to vote in local elections. In October 1903, she helped found the more militant Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), whose members became known as 'suffragettes'.

The suffragettes shocked public opinion with their demonstrations, window smashing, **arson and hunger strikes**²: in 1913 the suffragette Emily Davison was killed when she threw herself under the king's horse at the Derby in protest against the government's refusal to grant women the right to vote. Emmeline was arrested on numerous occasions over the next few years and went on hunger strike herself. The militant activity of the suffragettes came to an end when the First World War broke out in 1914, and Emmeline turned her energies to supporting the war effort. After the war, in 1918, the Representation of the People Act gave voting rights to women over 30. Emmeline died on 14 June 1928, shortly after women were granted equal voting rights with men (at 21).

Glossary

- 1** earnings: guadagni
2 arson and hunger strikes: incendi dolosi e scioperi della fame



1 READING Read Emmeline Pankhurst's biography and say if the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Emmeline's husband did not support her. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2 Suffragettes were women who fought with Emmeline to obtain the right to vote for women. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3 Suffragettes protested in a very peaceful way. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4 Emmeline went to prison several times. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

2 LISTENING Listen to the *World issue* and complete it with one word for each gap.

World issue GENDER EQUALITY AND THE UN 2030 AGENDA

Since 2015, the United Nations has been focusing its work on the 17 ¹..... Development Goals (SDGs) of its 2030 Agenda. Many goals specifically recognise the importance of women's ²..... and empowerment.

Goal 5, "to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", is dedicated specifically to achieving these ends.

Important ³..... changes are needed to ensure women's rights around the world.

In economic and political fields there are still very marked gender ⁴..... . Despite progress made over the decades, on average women's earnings are still 20% lower than men's globally. In 2021, only 25% of all national parliamentarians ⁵..... were female. This is a sadly low percentage but it shows significant ⁶..... compared to the 1995 figure of 11.3%.



→ **YouTube** Watch the video *Denis Mukwege, Nobel Peace Prize 2018: Official interview* and find out more about his hopes for the future.